

### **Remarks**

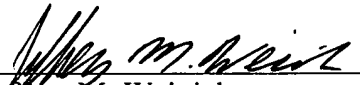
This is in response to the Office Action dated October 5, 2006. Claims 1-20 were presented for examination. The Examiner has allowed Claims 4, 6-9, and 11 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1-3, 5, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,226,636 (Abdel-Mottaleb et al.) and U.S. Patent 6,760,724 (Chakrabarti).

In order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants have rewritten allowed claims 4, 6, and 7 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Original claim 8 is an independent claim. No other basis of rejection has been provided for claim 8. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 8 is allowable. Dependant claims 9-11 are also allowable as these claims depend on an allowable independent claim.

All remaining rejected claims (1-3, 5 and 12-20) have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to present the cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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